

The nominations of Jose Antonio Aponte, of Colorado, Sandra Frances Ashworth, of Idaho, Edward Louis Bertorelli, of Massachusetts, Carol L. Diehl, of Wisconsin, Allison Druin, of Maryland, Beth Fitzsimmons, of Michigan, Patricia M. Hines, of South Carolina, Colleen Ellen Huebner, of Washington, Stephen M. Kennedy, of New Hampshire, Bridget L. Lamont, of Illinois, Mary H. Perdue, of Maryland, Herman Lavon Totten, of Texas, each to be a Member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, David Eisner, of Maryland, and Carol Kinsley, of Massachusetts, each to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service, Raymond Simon, of Arkansas, to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Elementary and Secondary Education, Read Van de Water, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board, Drew R. McCoy, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation, James McBride, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts, Laurie Susan Fulton, of Virginia, and J. Robinson West, of the

District of Columbia, each to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the United States Institute of Peace, Susan K. Sclafani, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Vocational and Adult Education, and Steven J. Law, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor, and a list of Public Health Service nominations.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Veterans Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Cynthia R. Church, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Public and Intergovernmental Affairs), Lawrence B. Hagel, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, Alan G. Lance, Sr., of Idaho, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, Gordon H. Mansfield, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and Robert N. McFarland, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Information and Technology).

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 78 public bills, H.R. 3568-3645; 4 private bills, H.R. 3646-3649; and 20 resolutions, H.J. Res. 79-81; H. Con. Res. 336-344, and H. Res. 462, 466-472, were introduced.

Pages H12306–10

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H12310–12

Reports Filed: Reports were filed as follows today:

H.R. 1629, to clarify that the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument does not include within its boundaries any privately owned property (H. Rept. 108–392);

H.R. 2896, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove impediments in such Code and make our manufacturing, service, and high-technology businesses and workers more competitive and productive both at home and abroad, amended, (H. Rept. 108–393);

H. Res. 463, waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a voluntary program for prescription drug coverage under the Medicare Program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction to individuals for amounts contributed to health sav-

ings security accounts and health savings accounts, to provide for the disposition of unused health benefits in cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements, (H. Rept. 108–394);

Efforts to Rightsize the U.S. Presence Abroad Lack Urgency and Momentum (H. Rept. 108–395);

Conference report on H.R. 2622, to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act, to prevent identity theft, improve resolution of consumer disputes, improve the accuracy of consumer records, make improvements in the use of, and consumer access to, credit information, (H. Rept. 108–396);

H.R. 2696, to establish Institutes to demonstrate and promote the use of adaptive ecosystem management to reduce the risk of wildfires, and restore the health of fire-adapted forest and woodland ecosystems of the interior West, amended, (H. Rept. 108–397, Pt. 1);

H. Res. 464, providing for consideration of a joint resolution appointing the day for the convening of the second session of the One Hundred Eighth Congress (H. Rept. 108–398);

H. Res. 465, waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (H. Rept. 108–399); and

H.R. 958, to authorize certain hydrographic services programs, to name a cove in Alaska in honor of the late Able Bodied Seaman Eric Steiner Koss, amended, (H. Rept. 108–400).

Pages H12198–H12213, H12306

Consideration of measures under suspension of the rules: The House agreed to H. Res. 456, providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules by a voice vote.

Pages H12107–13

Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003: The House agreed to the conference report on H.R. 1904, to improve the capacity of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to conduct hazardous fuels reduction projects on National Forest System lands and Bureau of Land Management lands aimed at protecting communities, watersheds, and certain other at-risk lands from catastrophic wildfire, to enhance efforts to protect watersheds and address threats to forest and rangeland health, including catastrophic wildfire, across the landscape, by a ye-and-nay vote of 286 yeas to 140 nays, Roll No. 656.

Pages H12159–72

Agreed to H. Res. 457, the rule providing for consideration of the conference report, by voice vote.

Pages H12113–17

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Highlands Stewardship Act: H.R. 1964, amended, to establish the Highlands Stewardship Area in the States of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania;

Pages H12118–21

Agreed to amend the title so as to read, a bill to assist the States of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania in conserving priority lands and natural resources in the Highlands region, and for other purposes.

Page H12121

Twenty-First Century Water Commission Act of 2003: H.R. 135, amended, to establish the “Twenty-First Century Water Commission” to study and develop recommendations for a comprehensive water strategy to address future water needs;

Pages H12121–25

Conveyance of a decommissioned NOAA ship: H.R. 2584, amended, to provide for the conveyance to the Utrok Atoll local government of a decommissioned National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship;

Pages H12125–26

Agreed to amend the title so as to read, a bill to provide for the conveyance to the Utrok Atoll local government of a decommissioned National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship, and for other purposes.

Page H12126

Predisaster Mitigation Program Reauthorization Act of 2003: H.R. 3181, to amend the Robert T.

Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to reauthorize the predisaster mitigation program;

Pages H12126–29

United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2003: S. 1152, to reauthorize the United States Fire Administration—clearing the measure for the President;

Pages H12129–33

Condemning the terrorist attacks in Istanbul, Turkey on November 15, 2003: H. Res. 453, amended, condemning the terrorist attacks in Istanbul, Turkey, on November 15, 2003, expressing condolences to the families of the individuals murdered and expressing sympathies to the individuals injured in the terrorist attacks, and standing in solidarity with Turkey in the fight against terrorism, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ ye-and-nay vote of 426 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 657;

Pages H12133–37, H12173

Agreed to amend the title so as to read, a resolution condemning the terrorist attacks on Istanbul, Turkey, on November 15 and 20, 2003, expressing condolences to the families of the individuals murdered and expressing sympathies to the individuals injured in the terrorist attacks, and expressing solidarity with Turkey and the United Kingdom in the fight against terrorism.

Page H12137

Department of Veterans Affairs Long-Term Care and Personal Authorities Enhancement Act of 2003: S. 1156, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and enhance the provision of health care for veterans, to authorize major construction projects and other facilities matters for the Department of Veterans Affairs, to enhance and improve authorities relating to the administration of personnel of the Department of Veterans Affairs, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ ye-and-nay vote of 423 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 658;

Pages H12137–57, H12173

Supporting the National Bone Marrow Program: H. Con. Res. 206, supporting the National Marrow Donor Program and other bone marrow donor programs and encouraging Americans to learn about the importance of bone marrow donation, by $\frac{2}{3}$ ye-and-nay vote of 423 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 663;

Pages H12157–59, H12226–27

Can-SPAM Act of 2003: S. 877, amended, to regulate interstate commerce by imposing limitations and penalties on the transmission of unsolicited commercial electronic mail via the Internet, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ ye-and-nay vote of 392 yeas to 5 nays, Roll No. 671;

Pages H12186–98, H12297–98

Fair Credit Reporting Act: Conference report on H.R. 2622, to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act, to prevent identity theft, improve resolution of consumer disputes, improve the accuracy of consumer

records, make improvements in the use of, and consumer access to, credit information, by a yea-and-nay vote of 379 yeas to 49 nays, with one voting "present", Roll No. 667. **Pages H12198–H12224, H12247**

Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003—Consideration of Conference Report: The House agreed to the conference report on H.R. 1, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a voluntary prescription drug benefit under the medicare program and to strengthen and improve the medicare program, by a vote of 220 yeas to 215 nays, Roll No. 669. Following the vote on agreeing to the conference report, the House agreed to table the motion to reconsider by a yea-and-nay vote of 210 yeas to 193 nays, Roll No. 670.

Pages H12174–81, H12247–97

Rejected the Turner of Texas motion to recommit the conference report to the conference committee with instructions, by a recorded vote of 211 ayes to 222 noes, Roll No. 668.

Pages H12294–95

Agreed to H. Res. 463, the rule providing for consideration of the report, by a recorded vote of 225 ayes to 205 noes, Roll No. 666, after agreeing to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 228 yeas to 204 nays, Roll No. 665.

Pages H12230–46

Agreed to H. Res. 459, the rule providing for same day consideration of the conference report, by a yea-and-nay vote of 228 yeas to 200 nays, Roll No. 660, after agreeing to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 225 yeas to 202 nays, Roll No. 659.

Pages H12174–81, H12224–25

Rule for consideration of continuing appropriations measure and/or general appropriations bills: The House agreed to H. Res. 458, the rule providing for same day consideration of a measure making further continuing appropriations for FY 2004 or a measure making general appropriations for FY 2004, by a yea-and-nay vote of 224 yeas to 203 nays, Roll No. 662, after agreeing to order the previous question on the resolution by a yea-and-nay vote of 225 yeas to 202 nays, Roll No. 661.

Pages H12181–86, H12225–26

National Flood Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2004: The House agreed by unanimous consent to discharge from committee and pass S. 1768, to extend the national flood insurance program.

Page H12227

Agreed to the Oxley amendment in the nature of a substitute by voice vote.

Page H12227

Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2004: The House agreed to H.J. Res. 79, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2004, by a yea-and-nay vote of 407 yeas to 16 nays, Roll No. 664.

Pages H12228–30

The resolution was considered under a unanimous consent agreement.

Page H12228

Recess: The House recessed at 8:04 p.m. and reconvened at 8:50 p.m.

Page H12229

National Prison Rape Reduction Commission: Read a letter from the Minority Leader wherein she appointed Ms. Brenda V. Smith of the District of Columbia to the Prison Rape Reduction Commission.

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourn today, it adjourn to meet at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, November 25.

Page H12298

Convening of the 2nd Session of the 108th Congress: The House passed by unanimous consent H. J. Res. 80, setting the convening day of the 2nd session of the 108th Congress as January 20, 2004.

Page H12298

Adjournment Resolution: The House agreed by unanimous consent to H. Con. Res. 339, providing for the sine die adjournment of the One Hundred Eighth Congress, First Session.

Page H12298

National Transportation Safety Board Reauthorization Act of 2003: The House by unanimous consent S. 579, to reauthorize the National Transportation Safety Board.

Pages H12298–99

Hometown Heroes Survivor's Benefits Act of 2003: The House passed by unanimous consent S. 459, amended to ensure that a public safety officer who suffers a fatal heart attack or stroke while on duty shall be presumed to have died in the line of duty for purposes of public safety officer survivor benefits.

Pages H12299–H12300

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate today appear on pages H12126, H12157, H12186, H12224, H12246, and H12247.

Senate Referral: S. 1561 was referred to the Committee on Government Reform; S. 1741 and S. 579 were ordered held at the desk.

Page H12300

Quorum Calls—Votes: 13 yea-and-nay votes and three recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H12171–72, H12172–73, H12173, H12224, H12224–25, H12225–26, H12226, H12226–27, H12230, H12245–46, H12246, H12247, H12295, H12295–96, H12296–97, and H12297–98. There were no quorum calls.

Amendments: Amendments ordered printed pursuant to the rule appear on page H12312.

Adjournment: The House met at 9:00 a.m. and adjourned at 6:32 a.m. on Saturday, November 22.

Committee Meetings

SAME DAY CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS REPORTED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice vote, a rule waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII (requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee) against certain resolutions reported from the Rules Committee. The rule applies the waiver to any special rule reported on or before the legislative day of January 31, 2004, providing for consideration or disposition of any of the following:

(A) A bill or joint resolution making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2004, or any amendment thereto, or any conference report thereon; or

(B) A bill or joint resolution making general appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, any amendment thereto, or any conference report thereon.

CONVENING DAY FOR 2ND SESSION OF THE 108TH CONGRESS

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice vote, a closed rule providing 1 hour of debate in the House on H. J. Res. 464, appointing the day for the Convening of the Second Session of the One Hundred Eight Congress, equally divided and controlled by the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader or their designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit.

CONFERENCE REPORT—MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a vote of 8 to 4, a rule waiving all points of order against the conference report to accompany H.R. 1, Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003, and against its consideration. The rule provides that the conference report shall be considered as read. Testimony was heard Chairmen Thomas and Tauzin; Representatives Johnson of Connecticut, Rangel, Dingell, Pelosi, Jones of Ohio, Brown of Ohio, Pallone, Schakowsky, and Jackson-Lee of Texas.

BRIEFING—INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session to receive a briefing on Intelligence Update on Iraq. The Committee was briefed by departmental witnesses.

Joint Meetings

HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT

Conferees on Thursday, November 20, 2003, agreed to file a conference report on the differences between the Senate and House passed versions of H.R. 1904, to improve the capacity of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to conduct hazardous fuels reduction projects on National Forest System lands and Bureau of Land Management lands aimed at protecting communities, watersheds, and certain other at-risk lands from catastrophic wildfire, to enhance efforts to protect watersheds and address threats to forest and rangeland health, including catastrophic wildfire, across the landscape.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG, IMPROVEMENT, AND MODERNIZATION ACT

Conferees on Thursday, November 20, 2003, agreed to file a conference report on the differences between the Senate and House passed versions of H.R. 1, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a voluntary prescription drug coverage program under the medicare program, to modernize, strengthen, and improve the medicare program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction to individuals for amounts contributed to health savings accounts, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to abbreviated applications for the approval of new drugs and the importation of prescription drugs.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Conferees agreed to file a conference report on the differences between the Senate and House passed versions of H.R. 2800, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of November 24 through November 29, 2003

Senate Chamber

Senate's program is uncertain.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on the Judiciary: November 24, business meeting to consider H.R. 1437, to improve the United States Code, S. 1129, to provide for the protection of unaccompanied alien children, S. 1602, to amend the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 to extend the